



# RICHMOND

## Berkshire County

---

[NARRATIVE](#)

[GEOGRAPHY](#)

[GOVERNMENT](#)

[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)

[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)

[TRANSPORTATION](#)

[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)

[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



## NARRATIVE

---

### Narrative

The Town of Richmond is a small, rural community located in Berkshire County. It abuts the New York State border and lies just south of the City of Pittsfield, where many of its residents work.

Richmond is noted for its scenic beauty, with tree-lined roads and shadows cast across the many fields by the surrounding Berkshire hills. The town shares with Pittsfield, Richmond Pond, a 226 acre raised natural pond with a town beach and state boat ramp. Several creeks and streams criss-cross the town and part of these waters help to form the headwaters of the Williams River, which flows through West Stockbridge to the south and joins the Housatonic River in Great Barrington. Richmond's rural ambience is enforced by progressive and strong zoning bylaws and by a newly enacted local wetland bylaw.

The town is principally residential in nature, with only a handful of commercial enterprises and several orchards and farms. In years past the town hosted extensive iron mining operations, which ended in 1923. A large furnace involved in these operations is still standing and has been nominated for placement on the National Historic Register. There are many part-time residents of Richmond from New York City or the Boston area involved in business or the arts who have chosen Richmond as their second homes for its beauty and privacy.

The residents of Richmond express a strong sense of community. The Richmond Civic Association, started in 1947, is open to all residents and has been involved in numerous community projects. The Richmond Land Trust and newly formed Richmond Historical Society also perform important civic duties. These three entities sponsor an annual auction in August and town picnic in October and recent proceeds from the auction were used to refurbish the old Northeast Schoolhouse, that is being turned into a museum. The recent successor to the one-room schoolhouses, the Richmond Consolidated School provides and excellent education for K-8 students. Older students attend high school on a tuition basis either in Pittsfield, Lenox or at Monument Mountain Regional in Great Barrington.

Richmond is symbolized well by its town seal, a "Tree of Life", with spreading branches above that are mirrored and balanced by strong, healthy roots below; the town looks and grows forward, while cherishing its distinguished past.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

---

## Location

Western Massachusetts, bordered by Hancock and Pittsfield on the north; Lenox on the east; Stockbridge and West Stockbridge on the south; and Canaan, New York, on the west. Richmond is 14 miles north of Great Barrington and 145 miles west of Boston.

**Total Area:** 19.23 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 18.96 sq. miles

**Population:** 1,677

**Density:** 88 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Great Barrington Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Pittsfield West, Stockbridge, State Line, Canaan N.Y.

## Regional Planning Agency

Berkshire County

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Pittsfield



# GOVERNMENT

---

## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 698-3355

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1765

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	1,127		
Democrats	296	26.3	%
Republicans	195	17.3	%
Other parties	3	0.3	%
Unenrolled Voters	633	56.2	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Richmond town, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	1,604	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	1,604	100.0
Male.....	789	49.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	9	0.6
Female.....	815	50.8	Mexican.....	3	0.2
Under 5 years.....	66	4.1	Puerto Rican.....	4	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	86	5.4	Cuban.....	2	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	123	7.7	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	-	-
15 to 19 years.....	103	6.4	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	1,595	99.4
20 to 24 years.....	45	2.8	White alone.....	1,560	97.3
25 to 34 years.....	104	6.5	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	264	16.5	Total population.....	1,604	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	308	19.2	In households.....	1,601	99.8
55 to 59 years.....	150	9.4	Householder.....	643	40.1
60 to 64 years.....	103	6.4	Spouse.....	414	25.8
65 to 74 years.....	148	9.2	Child.....	467	28.5
75 to 84 years.....	81	5.0	Own child under 18 years.....	330	20.6
85 years and over.....	23	1.4	Other relatives.....	37	2.3
Median age (years).....	45.3	(X)	Under 18 years.....	10	0.6
18 years and over.....	1,259	78.5	Nonrelatives.....	50	3.1
Male.....	604	37.7	Unmarried partner.....	26	1.6
Female.....	655	40.8	In group quarters.....	3	0.2
21 years and over.....	1,219	76.0	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	316	19.7	Noninstitutionalized population.....	3	0.2
65 years and over.....	252	15.7	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	114	7.1	Total households.....	643	100.0
Female.....	138	8.6	Family households (families).....	481	74.8
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	178	27.7
One race.....	1,604	100.0	Married-couple family.....	414	64.4
White.....	1,566	97.6	With own children under 18 years.....	144	22.4
Black or African American.....	16	1.0	Female householder, no husband present.....	53	8.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	8	0.5	With own children under 18 years.....	29	4.5
Asian.....	7	0.4	Nonfamily households.....	162	25.2
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	134	20.8
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	61	9.5
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	188	29.2
Japanese.....	2	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	188	29.2
Korean.....	4	0.2	Average household size.....	2.49	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.89	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	0.1	Total housing units.....	833	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	643	77.2
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	190	22.8
Samoan.....	1	0.1	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	115	13.8
Some other race.....	6	0.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	2.8	(X)
Two or more races.....	-	-	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	4.5	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	643	100.0
White.....	1,566	97.6	Owner-occupied housing units.....	580	90.2
Black or African American.....	16	1.0	Renter-occupied housing units.....	63	9.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	8	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.52	(X)
Asian.....	7	0.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.19	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	0.1			
Some other race.....	6	0.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



---

# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

---

**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	0
Conventional Federal:	0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



---

# TRANSPORTATION

---

## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Richmond is situated in Berkshire County, a region of hills and low mountains that widen to create the Berkshire Valley in the south. The major cities and towns are linked together by U.S. Route 7. North Adams and Pittsfield are major points of entry for rail freight into Massachusetts, and the region has several commercial airports.

### Major Highways

The principal highway is State Route 41, which runs N-S between State Route 20 and the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate Route 90), accessible in the neighboring town of West Stockbridge.

### Rail

Conrail provides freight rail service in Richmond. Contact number: (617) 783-6222

### Bus

Richmond is a member of the Berkshire Transit Authority (BRTA) but does not receive services.

### Other

Pittsfield Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located 2 mi. W of the city, has 2 asphalt runways: 3,496'x 100' and 5,000'x 100'. Instrument approaches available. Non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

---

## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

---

## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

None

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



---

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

---

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.